

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A method and apparatus are provided for monitoring the quality
of lubricant that is in a gear mechanism or machine that contains
5 effective materials. A sample of the lubricant or of the vapor that
escapes from the lubricant is withdrawn from the gear mechanism or
machine. The sample is conveyed to an ion mobility spectrometer,
where materials present in the vapor phase above the lubricant are
analyzed. The change of the content and of the type of the analyzed
10 materials in the sample is utilized as the actual condition for the aging
of the lubricant.

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